

Register results

The following regulations or standards have been issued by Federal agencies. They have all previously been summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals. The extent of consumer comment is reported when such information is available.

- Beginning Oct. 3, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will require that all microwave ovens have permanent warning labels & that specific safety instructions be included in user & service manuals. FDA received 84 letters on the proposal—64 from consumers & consumer associations & the remainder from manufacturers, health care facilities & other organizations. Thirty-one commenters did not think the proposed amendment was necessary & that the warning label would reduce sales & add to the cost of the microwave ovens. Details—*Federal Register*: April 2, page 14750; May 30, 1974, page 18797; Sept. 13, 1973, page 25462. CONSUMER REGISTER: July 1, 1974 & Oct. 1, 1973.

- On May 15, Agriculture Dept. will establish grade standards for frozen concentrated apple juice for voluntary use by producers. Agriculture received 7 comments on the last version of proposed rule-making—4 of them from consumers. Three consumers supported the use of apple parts (peels, cores & trimmings) in making apple juice. One consumer objected to the use of apple parts because of concern that the apple parts might contain insecticide residues. Details—*Federal Register*: March 25, page 13195; May 14, 1974, page 17234; Jan. 16, 1974, page 2006; Aug. 20, 1973, page 22406. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1 & Feb. 15, 1974.

Imitation items

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has issued regulations requiring special markings for imitation political & numismatic (coins, tokens, paper money & commemorative medals) items. The regulations, which became effective March 10, implement the Hobby Protection Act (Public Law 93-167) & provide that:

- Imitation political items must be permanently & plainly marked with year of manufacture according to FTC specifications. These items include campaign buttons, literature, posters & bumper stickers.

- Imitation numismatic items, such as "Confederate" money, must be permanently & plainly marked "Copy."

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 6, page 5495.

Boating safety

April 17 is deadline for comments on Coast Guard's proposal to require operators of white water canoes or kayaks to wear approved personal flotation devices (PFDs).

Present regulations permit operators of white water canoes & kayaks to wear lifesaving devices that are not approved by the Coast Guard. At the time regulations were issued, there were no suitable Coast Guard approved PFDs. Recently, Coast Guard approved several PFDs that it considers suitable for use by the white water canoeist.

Proposed effective date of the change in regulations is Oct. 1.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 4, page 5167. Send comments to CGD 74-159, U.S. Coast Guard (G-CMC/82), Washington, DC 20590.

Fresh fruits & vegetables

April 28 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to require nutrition labeling for fresh fruits & vegetables whenever nutrition claims are made in stores.

Although the nutrition labeling program has been

underway for other foods for 2 years, this is the first proposal to include fresh fruits & vegetables. FDA recognizes that the nutritional value of these products can vary depending on the growing area & on care in handling during shipment & storage. However, FDA feels that "such problems can be overcome & that the proposed regulations will extend the agency's nutrition labeling program to fresh produce in a workable & equitable way."

The proposed rule would require that packaged fresh fruits & vegetables for which even one nutritional claim is made—such as saying oranges are full of vitamin C—must carry full nutrition labeling, including vitamin, mineral, carbohydrate & caloric values. If a sign appears near a bin of unpackaged oranges—again, saying oranges are full of vitamin C—the sign would have to include the same complete nutrition information as would be required on a package of oranges.

Advertising of fresh fruits & vegetables in newspapers, flyers, & anywhere else besides in the stores, is under Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) jurisdiction. Therefore, allegations of false & misleading advertising would be referred to FTC.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 26, page 8214: Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Sudden infant death (continued)

Health, Education & Welfare Dept. (HEW) is alerting potential applicants for Federal financial assistance on causes of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) that they may send in their applications for grants before final regulations are published. HEW wants to expedite the review procedures for the award of financial assistance & will accept & review grant applications until further notice. Forms & other information may be obtained from the Associate Bureau Director, Program Office for Maternal & Child Health, Bureau of Community Health Services, Health Services Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 1, page 14626; March 5, page 10318. CONSUMER REGISTER: April 1.

Children's sleepwear

Effective May 1, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is requiring companies who make or sell children's sleepwear, sizes 7 through 14, to meet certain rules for labeling, recordkeeping, display & testing. The rules implement the Federal mandatory flammability standard for children's sleepwear, sizes 7 through 14, which becomes effective May 1. Flammability standard requires that children's sleepwear in these sizes be flame resistant [CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1, 1974].

Main provisions of the new rules for children's sleepwear, sizes 7 through 14, & for fabrics intended for this use, are:

- Sleepwear made between May 1, 1975, & May 1, 1978, must be labeled: "Flame Resistant. U.S. Standard FF 5-74." Label does not have to be permanent & may be attached to the package or be on a hang tag. This label will enable consumers to distinguish between clothing made after the standard becomes effective & clothing made before the standard. Sleepwear & sleepwear fabrics made or imported before May 1 that do not meet the standard still can be sold until inventories are exhausted.
- All sleepwear must have a permanent label telling consumers how to protect the sleepwear from soap & detergents or any treatment that would cause them to be less flame resistant. Fabric shops selling flame resistant yard goods must also provide care labels that can be sewn into the finished sleepwear.
- Each garment or fabric must have a permanent production code identification label that will permit identification of the manufacturer & assist in the tracking of nonstandard sleepwear or fabrics.
- Stores must separate displays of standard & non-standard goods by at least 36 inches (.914 meters). Signs with letters at least one inch (2.5 centimeters) high must distinguish the flame resistant products from those that are not flame resistant.
- Manufacturers, importers & wholesalers must keep records of purchases & dates of sale.

Flammability standard for children's sleepwear in sizes 0 to 6X has been in effect since July 29, 1973. It already requires permanent care labels. Other rules to implement the standard for these sizes will be issued later. They will be similar to the rules for children's sleepwear, sizes 7 through 14.

Consumer fact sheets describing the flammability standards & laundering tips may be obtained by calling CPSC's toll-free hotline: 800-638-2666 (Maryland residents, call: 800-492-2937).

Details—*Federal Register*: April 1, page 14584; March 21, page 12811; May 1, 1974, page 15210. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1, 1974.

Variable interest-rate mortgages

May 15 is deadline for comments on Federal Home Loan Bank Board's (FHLBB) proposal to allow Federally chartered savings & loan associations to offer variable interest-rate mortgages. Present FHLBB regulations: (1) permit savings & loan associations to adjust mortgage interest rates only by changing the length of the loan term; (2) limit loan terms to 30 years.

Proposed regulations for Federal savings & loans would permit the following:

- Mortgage interest rates could be adjusted by changing the amount of monthly payments, by changing the length of loan term or by a combination of these changes. Loan term could not be decreased to less than the original loan term unless the consumer agreed.
- Term of a loan having an adjusted interest rate could be extended to 35 years.
- Increases in interest rate by savings & loans would be optional, but decreases would be required [according to certain provisions of the proposal].
- Overall interest rate increase could not exceed 2.5% for the term of the mortgage, & rate of increase could not exceed an average rate of increase of 0.5% every 6 months.
- Interest rate need not be decreased more than an average rate of 0.5% every 6 months.
- Changes could not be made more than every 6 months.
- Notice of 45 days to the consumer would be required before change in interest rate.
- Consumers could prepay without penalty whenever the variable interest-rate exceeds mortgage's initial interest rate.
- Interest rate changes would be geared to an interest rate index approved by FHLBB.
- Consumers would have to be informed of variable interest-rate provisions in a mortgage contract before signing contract.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 14, page 6870. Send comments to Secretary, Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Washington, DC 20552.

Drinking water

May 16 is deadline for comments on Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposals to establish national drinking water standards. The proposals, which would implement the Safe Drinking Water Act [CONSUMER NEWS: this issue], represent the first comprehensive effort to regulate the purity of the nation's drinking water.

The proposals set maximum contaminant levels for certain inorganic chemicals & pesticides & establish a limit for the total concentration of organic chemicals. They also set maximum levels for sediment & microbiological contaminants in the drinking water.

The regulations would become effective December 1976 & would apply to most of the nation's 240,000 public water supplies.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 14, page 11989. Send comments to Water Supply Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$45 a year & may be ordered from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

Rate Register

● United Airlines (UAL) is asking Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to apply bicentennial fare discounts to flights between cities less than 750 miles (1207 kilometers) apart. If approved, these fares would become effective May 15.

CAB has already approved bicentennial discounts of 25% in non-peak seasons & 20% during the summer between cities more than 750 miles apart.

Because Chicago is such a large market—and slightly less than 750 miles away from certain cities that have an American revolution bicentennial attraction (New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Norfolk & Newport News)—UAL wants discounts to apply to flights between Chicago & those cities.

● On March 18, National Airlines (NAL) told Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) it will stop serving free liquor to coach passengers beginning April 14. NAL began serving free drinks to coach passengers in November 1974. On March 30, Eastern Airlines (EAL) announced that it, too, is discontinuing free drinks to coach passengers beginning April 14.

● On March 27, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) approved re-introduction of discount youth fares between the U.S. & Europe. Youth fares are effective for one year, beginning April 1, & apply to ages 12 through 21. U.S. airlines said they lost substantial youth business to Canadian airlines in 1974.

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

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Rate Register

● On March 27, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) disapproved an International Air Transport Association (IATA) agreement that would have increased all fares between the U.S. & the South Pacific area by 13%. Pan American World Airways is the only U.S. airline flying that route.

● On March 27, Civil Aeronautics (CAB) approved International Air Transport Association's (IATA) agreements introducing Individual Inclusive Tour (IIT) fares on most U.S.-Mexico routes. Revised fares are in effect now through April 30, 1976. At the same time, CAB approved a 5% increase in U.S.-Caribbean fares because the airlines serving this area are losing money.

● On March 28, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) approved National Airlines' (NAL) proposed "no-frills" discount air fare. Coach fares are discounted 35% in markets where NAL operates wide-bodied planes (DC10s & 747s), in addition to 5 Fort Lauderdale-southern tier markets. Fares are effective April 14 to June 30 & Sept. 3 to Dec. 16 (Monday through Thursday of each week). On April 9, CAB authorized 4 more airlines (American, Continental, Delta & Eastern) to offer similar "no-frills" service in narrow-bodied planes in the markets where NAL offers the service.

● On April 3, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) approved Pan American World Airways' (Pan Am) request to discontinue most of its Caribbean flights for no more than 2 years. Cities affected include New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore & New Orleans. Pan Am told CAB it had lost \$38 million in its Latin American division last year. The Caribbean service was cut April 9 & will continue through Dec. 15, 1976.

● On April 2, World Airways, a charter carrier based in Oakland, CA, filed a route application with Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to provide regularly scheduled air service between Newark, Baltimore, Oakland & Ontario, CA. If the route application is approved, World Airways is proposing to offer an \$89 one-way, coast-to-coast fare (not including tax & security surcharge). This fare would be less than half the normal one-way coach air fare currently charged on these routes. CAB is not expected to act on this application until May.

Consumers may comment on World Airways' proposal by referring to Docket No. 27693 & addressing comments to Docket Section, Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, DC 20428.

